(b) Rs. 1.00 crore was released for rehabilitation of farmers of Srikakulam District. However, no funds were recommended by National Calamity Relief Committee for release under National Fund for Calamity Relief as it was considered that State Government would have managed the calamity out of the funds under Calamity Relief Fund.

Software Technology Parks in Tamilandu

*480.SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up software technology parks in Tamil Nadu during the financial year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any software technology park exist in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) what steps Government will take to spread Information Technology in rural areas of the country, especially in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Software Technology Park has already been set up at Chennai and Coimbatore in the State of Tamilnadu.

Software Technology Park of India (STPI), Chennai will be establishing Satellite Earth Station to provide High Speed Data Connectivity at Southern Districts of Tamilnadu like Madurai and Trichy with the support of State Government.

(d) Government is providing the required policy frame work to upgrade existing STD/ISD/PCOs into Public Tele-Info Centres (PTICs). This facility would be available all over the country including rural areas of Tamilnadu. Further, Ministry of Information Technology has initiatsd a project in Ramanathapuram, District of Tamilnadu for developing a network of village Information Centres to share information on Public Health, Crop Planning, Soil Preservation and the like.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) has implemented land records computerisation in 534 districts. NIC in association with Government of Tamilnadu, has also taken up Taluka Office computerisation in Thanjavur district.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Release of Grants for Drought Relief in Andhra Pradesh

3523. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister visited Mahabubnagar in Andhra Pradesh to study the prevailing drought like conditions there;

(b) if so, the grants sanctioned towards drought relief; and

(c) by when the grant would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Calamity Relief Committee approved an assistance of Rs. 75.36 crore to Andhra Pradesh from the National Fund for Calamity Relief in the wake of drought. The amount was released on 31.3.2000. This amount was released in addition to the amount released under calamity Relief Fund (CRF) i.e. Rs. 107.69 crore as Central share. First instalment of Central share of CRF to the State for 2000-01 amounting to Rs. 38.89 crore has also been released.

Regional Co-ordination Centre on prawn Culture and Asian Cat Fish

3524. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar of ICAR had propopsed in 1995 for establishment of Regional Co-ordination centre for Fresh Water Prawn Culture and Regional Co-ordination Research project on Asian Cat Fish;